

the far surface of a workpiece having a dimension which is being measured relative to that surface, and

mounting structure joined to said body expanse, and accommodating mounting of the device on such a tape at a location adjacent the tape's outer end, and in such a manner that different workpiece surface-gripping projection elements that are present in said row in said perimeter structure are operatively located on, and in spaced relation to, opposite sides of the tape's nominal plane, and with said elements generally extending toward the tape.

4. (Amended) The device of claim 1 which is for use as a freely attachable object in relation to a conventional measuring-tape outer end structure of the kind having a lateral projection which extends one-sidedly, laterally and generally outwardly in a plane which is disposed at an angle relative to the plane of the tape per se, and said mounting structure takes the form of a snap-capture arrangement adapted to receive, and generally lock into a defined relative fixed positional relationship with respect to, such a projection.

12. (Twice Amended) A workpiece surface-gripping device removably joinable selectively adjacent the outer end of an elongate, ribbon-like, and generally planar linear measuring tape, said device comprising

a generally planar gripper body which has the form of a closed plane having a perimeter formed with plural, spaced, linearly-distributed, workpiece surface-gripping projection elements, and

13. (Twice Amended) A tape-measuring device comprising
an elongate, ribbon-like and generally nominally planar measuring tape having an
exposed free end, and

a workpiece surface-gripping device joined to said tape adjacent the tape's said free end, said surface-gripping device including

a gripper body having a generally planar body expanse in the form of a closed plane with perimeter structure which generally circumsurrounds said body expanse, said perimeter structure being formed with a row of plural, spaced, perimeter-distributed workpiece surface-gripping projection elements, and

mounting structure joined to said body expense, and directly mounting said surface-gripping device on said tape's free end in such a manner that different workpiece surface-gripping elements that are present in said perimeter structure are operatively located on, and in spaced relation to, opposite sides of the tape's nominal plane, with these elements generally extending toward said tape.

REMARKS

In the last Office action, the Examiner rejected the claims in this case principally on the basis of a combination which the Examiner assembled using U.S. Patents 5,894,677 to Hoffman, and 1,102,436 to Richardson. Patents that were also cited and